hearing of the good spirit of the troops and of the zeal with which they work at their naval tactics.

30th. (To Rear-Admiral Decres.) Please collect at Rochefort and Brest the transports for the expedition to Ireland.

November 5th, Boulogne:

I arrived unexpectedly at Boulogne on Friday at one o'clock. I set to inspecting with the liveliest interest the preparations for our great expedition; at midnight I was still at it. I am in barracks in the centre of the camp on the seashore, where the eye can measure the space that separates us from England.

9th. I spent Sunday visiting our new ports at Amble-teuse and Wimereux, and in manoeuvring the troops.

I inspected to-day, in the closest detail, the naval workshops; their condition is as bad as it well could be. I have just converted some barracks into a naval arsenal. I have to look after the smallest details in person.

I have spent some hours in inspecting the troops man by man.

Our fleet, which already numbers one hundred men-of-war, remains at anchor in the bay, and the English don't dare to close in to short range. Lord Keith is apparently in command and has several 64's; he has suffered some damage even at long range.

I passed some part of last night in making the troops perform night evolutions; these manoeuvres may often be profitably undertaken by well-trained and disciplined troops against a militia.

Things are taking on a formidable appearance.

llth. The sea is heavy, and the rain is unceasing. I